

# *the GAVEL*

**Western Kentucky University Student Government**

**SPRING 2001 - VOLUME 1**

## **WHAT HAS SGA DONE FOR YOU?**

### **The Ride of Our President**

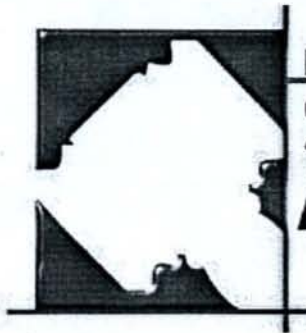
Stacey Taylor

On a beautiful spring day, I had the privilege of talking one on one with Cassie Martin, SGA's down-to-Earth president. Cassie commenced her term as president in the fall of 2000, and her term is now quickly coming to a close. During her time as the leader of Western's Student Government Association, Cassie Martin has accomplished a phenomenal amount of work - - serving her student body well. Among the copious things that she has worked to establish is the Campus Spirit Award. At the beginning of the year, a goal was set to increase attendance at the Topper ball games. To accomplish this goal, a spirit award contest was set up - - enticing students to show their spirit at games. Another goal that Cassie worked to accomplish was the online elections for SGA. Cassie had not planned on getting this done in her term, and yet online elections occurred this year with more ease than she thought. Also, the number of students that have been polled at jump tables in DUC through surveys has increased; this is another accomplishment Cassie is excited about.

Even when times were tough and things were heated, she embraced her duty and took the opinion of the majority of the students to assume the appropriate stance on whatever issue was at hand.

With all the goals that Cassie has worked to meet, is there anything left that she wishes she had done? Surprisingly, there are a couple of issues that Cassie regrets not having resolved. She expressed a desire to have settled the matter of the faculty evaluations. Unfortunately, the online evaluations were a touchy issue for some, so let's cross our fingers that progress will be made in that area in the next school year. A big headache Cassie dealt with stemmed from the student health services. The Student Government Association will likely be addressing this topic next year as well. In addition, Cassie wished that there could have been more involvement in student government. She would have enjoyed seeing a more diverse membership in Congress, but at least those who did devote time to Congress did well. If this president had it to do all over again (which no, she is not), she would have recruited more students for to join Congress earlier in the year before they became too busy.

Overall, the year has been good, coupled with many ups and downs. Summing up a whole year of work and dedication is hard, but I believe Cassie did it well when she described it all as a "roller coaster ride." Thank goodness that roller coasters have many crests of fun times. Without those, the troughs or down times would have been harder to handle. Lucky for the students of Western Kentucky University, Cassie has done well. Two thumbs up to our SGA president of 2000-2001!



*Welcome to Western Kentucky University's*

# **Student Government Association**

*We can't do it alone.*



President: Cassie Martin  
Executive Vice President: Leslie Bedo  
Vice President Administration: Adam Howard  
Vice President Finance: Mark Rawlings  
Vice President Public Relations: Leslie McClard  
Parliamentarian: Joy Jones  
Coordinator of Committees: Billy Lyons

## **Committee Heads**

Student Affairs: Jamie Sears  
Academic Affairs: Zhella Harris-Layne  
Campus Improvements: Andrea Lovell  
Special Events: Ann Green  
Senior Awards Banquet: Amanda Demarest  
Public Relations: Holly Skidmore  
Legislative Research: Jamil Sewell

## **Student Government Association Congress Members**

Joe Link  
Terry Woodall  
Jenny Klingenberg  
Jessi Rollins  
Margaret Haydon  
Troy Ransdell  
LaJohnna Brown  
Robin Fulkerson  
Stacey Taylor  
Aaron Spencer  
Abby Volz  
Matthew Pava

Ross Pruitt  
Michael Richardson  
Miranda Eubank  
Kevin Haywood  
Anna Coats  
Jennifer Cissel  
Dana Lockhart  
Bridget Wilfert  
Christina Harmon  
Natalie Taylor  
Stephen Martin  
Krista Harris



## **Saving Big Red**

Robin Fulkerson

Two words come to mind when I think of Western Kentucky University: Big Red. I came to Western in August of 1999 from a community college that had no mascot. Now I am at a school with a mascot, but I have no clue what "Big Red" is meant to represent. A friend told me he was the "Hill" - - a big glob of red clay dirt. Okay, somehow I don't think my friend was right. As time went by and I heard the motto, "The Spirit Makes the Master," strewn over every piece of letterhead WKU has to offer, I figured it out - - at least I thought I did.

Big Red is the spirit of Western. I realize how silly this sounds, but think about it. Spirits have no shape; they only have an attitude or a presence. Big Red has attitude and presence - - Big Red is the spirit for Western Kentucky University.

Now they want to alter the adorable mascot I've grown to love. A committee feels WKU needs a more recognizable, energetic, and appealing symbol. *The Herald* even quoted someone (not a student) saying that students didn't go to the bookstore to buy something with Big Red splattered across the front of it. Yes we do. Evidently, this person hasn't been in the bookstore to notice that students do purchase t-shirts, sweatshirts, and other Western merchandise with Big Red "splattered" across the front of it.

President Ransdell invited members of the Student Government Association to a meeting in April regarding the alteration of Western logos, symbols, and word marks. This meeting allows us to give objective criticism or praise to the new designs by Eric Rickabaugh. Evidently, he has created a more recognizable and appealing Big Red. How can a person do that when Big Red has received numerous awards and is recognized across the nation?

Big Red starred in an ESPN commercial. Big Red has won the key to Spirit

Award three times. Big Red has made it to the "Final Four" of *ESPN's Sportzone* "Battle of the Mascots." With such achievements under Big Red's current appearance, how could anyone think of altering it?

Student Government's Campus Improvements Committee wrote a resolution regarding this matter. Part of this resolution read, "Any major alterations of Big Red's appearance could significantly decrease the mascot's already existing appeal, loveability, and national recognition." Congress passed the resolution. SGA decided that the university should protect the traditional appearance of Big Red.

Like I said, I'm not even sure what Big Red is, though I think he is the spirit of Western. Regardless of what anyone else thinks, the students should decide whether or not Big Red's appearance should be altered. After all, if the committee votes to change Big Red they vote to change the spirit of Western too.

## **SGA Elections 2001**

Brandon Copeland

On March 5<sup>th</sup>, Student Government elections for 2001-2002 kicked off with several notes of interest. A few weeks later on April 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> students were able to go to the polls online for the first time. Turnout was higher than expected and four (out of five) races went uncontested: President/Vice President, Vice President of Finance, and Vice President of Administration. The elected are as follows: Leslie Bedo/Jamie Sears, Aaron Spencer, and Jamil Sewell respectively. Each received just over 580 votes out of nearly 700 cast.

This left the Vice President of Public Relations spot remaining as the only contested race in this year's election. Public Relations committee chair Holly Skidmore and Vice President of Finance Mark Rawlings were the candidates.



## **Proposed Constitutional Amendment Passes**

Robin Fulkerson

The Student Government Association representatives finally passed a bill proposing a constitutional amendment regarding the joint ticket between the president and the vice president. The concept behind the bill has been brewing in the Legislative Research Committee for at least a year. Originally, the student government elections for president and vice president were a split ticket, meaning student voted separately for the two offices. However, circumstances caused student government to change from a split ticket to a joint ticket a few years ago.

Jamil Sewell, author of the bill and chairperson for the Legislative Research Committee, states in the proposed amendment that the executive elections unfairly restricts student input into SGA leaders. The current election allows students only four votes for the five different offices. Sewell contends it restricts votes for candidates; students may only like the presidential candidate and by default must vote for their vice president counterpart.

Like many Congress members, SGA President Cassie Martin supported this amendment. She believes it allows someone to run for vice president without needing a presidential running mate in order to run for office. Most supporters feel the change will benefit those students hoping to run for office and increase student involvement, especially when voting.

One member of Congress, Jamie Sears, voted against the proposed constitutional amendment. Sears opposed the change because she feels that students should trust their presidential candidate enough to choose the best running mate - - regardless of whether or not the two have identical views.



## **Western Kentucky University PHI BETA LAMBDA**

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division of Future Business Leaders of  
America (FBLA)

## **Elections** (continued from page 3)

Close would be an understatement in describing the result. Rawlings edged out a victory by a 52-48% margin. Only 28 votes (out of nearly 700 total) separated the two candidates.

A constitutional amendment that would split the Presidential and Vice Presidential ticket was also on the ballot. The student body overwhelmingly passed this measure by a 67-33% margin. The measure will take effect in the 2002-2003 elections.

New officers will be inducted at the Spring Banquet of SGA scheduled for April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Carol Kinsley Center for Economic Development at South Campus.



## **CAMPUS SPIRIT**

Holly Skidmore

When Cassie Martin was elected as the Western Kentucky University SGA President, she wanted to increase student attendance at campus related activities from sporting events to campus cleanup. The question was how to do this.

The solution came with the creation of the First Union Campus Spirit Award that directly encourages organizations to become involved on campus. Exactly how does this award work? Anonymous individuals attend specific events that are held on campus and record which organizations are in attendance and award points accordingly. At the end of the school year, the top five organizations will receive cash prizes for supporting activities.

The award is being funded through donations. First Union has donated \$10,000, President Ransdell's University fund allocated \$3,000 to the cause, SGA donated \$2,000, and the Hilltopper Athletic Foundation contributed \$1,500 to this year's award. Money has also been allocated to continue this award in the future.

Cassie feels that the Spirit Award has been a success. They have learned about promoting the award and will be working with the Marketing Department next year. She was quick to point out that an interesting fact about the top three organizations currently in line for the award is that they are not all Greek.

Leslie Bedo expressed that next year there may not be as many events that count toward participation points. Often, organizations do not know what to attend to gain points. This problem can be alleviated through better advertising. Don't forget, no matter how small your organization, everyone still has a chance to win the grand prize. If your group did not participate this year, get involved next year.

## **YOUR ORGANIZATION COULD WIN \$7,500!!!**

### **FIRST UNION CAMPUS SPIRIT AWARD**

SGA will award the top five most spirited organizations on campus.

- First Place - \$7,500
- Second Place - \$5,000
- Third Place - \$2,500
- Fourth Place - \$1,000
- Fifth Place - \$500

## **SGA SPONSORED CAMPUS CLEANUP**

**APRIL 23, 2001  
3:30**

**Meet at Cherry Hall  
First 75 people receive free t-shirts!**

**Get Spirit Award Points  
Get Community Service Hours**

**(Earth Day April 22, 2001)**



## **Project: GAZEBO**

Stephen Martin

The SGA has sponsored and coordinated various events over the course of this year, but none so big as "The Gazebo." The SGA Campus Improvements Committee has come up with an idea to place a gazebo on the south end of campus near Zacharias and Meredith where many residence halls are located. It would be thirty feet in diameter (roughly the same size of two and a half residence hall rooms), and would match the fencing that aligns University Boulevard - - the columns being brick and the railing being black metal. Currently, the roof will be the same as what is being put on top of the directional halls next year. The inside of the Gazebo would house a light that can be turned off and on by a power source also located on the inside and numerous benches. Around the outside would be a night-activated light for visibility in the evenings.

The Gazebo would be open at all times for students to visit and relax or study. It could also be used for meetings, classes, presentations, and ceremonies, as well as any other purpose that it could serve.

Currently, the people overseeing the project, Andrea Lovell (chair of the Campus Improvements committee) and Natasha Smith (in Facilities Management) are trying to get co-sponsors from other organizations and the like to help pay for this improvement of campus life.

Look forward to seeing this new addition added to campus!

## **The Bronze "WKU"**

Abby Volz

Near the middle of the first semester, the Campus Improvements Committee initiated another effort to beautify the campus. The committee sponsored the idea of placing bronze "WKU" letters on each of the six tallest brick posts along University Boulevard. The bill was approved by Congress, and the installation of the letters is forthcoming. The committee liked this idea because the bronze letters will be attractive to visitors as well as enhance the theme represented on the Western Kentucky University sign.

Despite problems with the funds for the bronze letters, they should be appearing on campus soon.

## ***INSTITUTE***

*Join us every Wednesday as we indulge in the scriptures, reading, studying, and learning about Christ. ALL are welcome to join us at 7:00 pm in DUC 308 EVERY Wednesday!*

**SPONSORED BY LDSSA**

Questions? Call the Taylor twins at  
745-2661

**IS THERE SOMETHING WESTERN'S STUDENT  
GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION CAN DO FOR YOU?  
CALL US AND LET US KNOW YOUR NEEDS! 745-4354**



## Shuttle Problems

Bridget Wilfert

The last thing a student needs to happen at 7:55 in the morning is to watch the shuttle drive right on by after he/she has been waiting for a ride up the hill for over fifteen minutes. With about five minutes left to get to the top of the hill, the student most likely wonders why someone has not fixed this reoccurring problem. Well, SGA tried.

This past year the members of the Campus Improvements Committee have made two separate attempts to remedy the shuttle problem and help students who wish to use the shuttle and still make it to class on time. On October 31, 2000, a resolution entitled "Shuttle Bus" asked the university to purchase a new shuttle to make the internal loop contain three instead of two shuttles. Because of the lack of funds in the Parking and Transportation Committees budget, the SGA was informed that this purchase would not be possible.

Andrea Lovell (chair of the Campus Improvements Committee) and the committee decided to reword their request with a second resolution entitled "Shuttle Bus Problem." This additional resolution asked the university to "remedy the delay students incur while waiting for the shuttle bus due to overcrowding." As of now, most of you know, the problem has not been fixed. Still, the members of SGA hope some change can be made without a shuttle purchase to allow students to use the shuttle system without worry.

## ValleyPalooza

April 27<sup>th</sup> 1pm-6pm

IN THE VALLEY

Free games, food, prizes, and music  
Come and join the fun!

Sponsored by Campus  
Activities Board  
and Valley Hall  
Governments

## Congratulations to Greek Honor Roll Members with a GPA of 3.8 or above

Laura Allen, Lucy Austin, Matt Bogard, Adrienne Braxton, Erin Brothers, Marilyn Bungo, Megan Burch, Danielle Bush, Allison Carter, Lisa Chestnut, Brooke Cramer, Cortney Davis, Shelly Davis, Kevin Day, Brad Denisar, Chrissy Dunn, Kyle Edelen, Merida Foster, Ashley Gelhausen, Stephanie Gladney, Jill Goh, Ann Green, Marci Graham, Alan Grimes, Carrie Haare, Danielle Hall, Lindsey Hinton, Amber Hurt, Leah Johnson, Jessica Jolly, Regan Kays, Matt Larson, Holly Lewis, David Logan, Brittney Long, Erin Long, Amibeth Lovan, Sara Lusk, Cassie Martin, Brenna McCormick, Courtney McNulty, Drew Milsap, Jared Neuss, Andrea Norris, Rhea Payne, Karalee Pelham, Zack Phelps, Andrea Potter, Jennifer Rakestraw, Ashlee Robinson, Megan Roe, T.J. Ross, Mark Smith, Leigh Strubble, Ellen Suwanski, Kristan Thomas, Kristin Usery, Andrea Warwick, Jennifer Wheller, Rebecca Whipple, Julie Zoglemann, Kristie Zoglemann

From Campus cleanups to the Spirit Award, SGA is working hard to make Western the best it can be. Here's what all the hoot is about in Chi Omega:

- The sisters of Chi Omega are hosting the annual 100 mile walk on Wed., April 25 at 5 pm in Smith Stadium. We invite everyone to participate in this event where all the proceeds go to Girls Inc. of Bowling Green. Each Chi Omega member has pledged \$100 to the effort and all donations are welcome. For Questions call Jennifer Granger at 745-6768 or Chi Omega at 781-9654.
- Formal is coming up on April 28 at the Bowling Green Country Club.
- Chi Omega is looking forward to our mixer with Delta Tau Delta.
- Congratulations to our new members Caroline Paynter and Rachel Waford.



## Spring 2001 SGA Retreat

Natalie Taylor

White snow, graceful deer, beautiful cabins, student voices - - - words that describe the spring SGA retreat that was held January 19-20 at Kentucky State Park. The retreat was to get SGA off to a good start for the semester by putting issues out on the table and starting committee work. It was open to any Congress member who wished to attend, and there were many members who did attend.

The retreat started with a dinner buffet, followed by an open discussion between SGA members and distinguished guests Gene Tice, Dean Bailey, and Scott Taylor. Campus problems and student concerns were discussed in detail and made known; these concerns ranged from the famous parking problem, campus crime, SGA meetings, to other related topics. The concerns were voiced and solutions sought.

In the cabins, Adam Howard gave a presentation on goals and the need to make them, and committees met until as late as midnight setting goals and making plans for the semester.

Breakfast started off Saturday morning while upcoming elections were discussed. The retreat ended in high spirits and served as an excellent kick off for the spring semester to get the ball rolling in the right direction for SGA.



### PHI SIGMA PI National Honor Fraternity

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Bridget Wilfert (Pres.), T.J. Lile (V.P.), Leslie Downs (Sec.), Mark Detjen (Treas.), Amy Nichter (PR/Hist.), Olivia Korfhage (Parl.), Chris Carroll (Service), Carlos Barragan, Lynnsie Bowles, Bryan Dockery, Jessica Farley, Laura Harris, Renee Hobbs, Sarah Hogge, Lindsay Hughes, Sarah Huss, Kristen Leonard, Samantha Matthews, Andrea Norris, Donjea Osborne, Julia Raymer, Crystal Robinson, Jocelyn Robinson, Kelly Wattington, April White

### **Sister Hazel** in concert *Diddle Arena*

*April 25, 2001*

*Doors open at 7pm*

*\$6 WKU students \$11 non-students*

*For tickets call 745-5222*

*Sponsored by Campus Activities Board*

**ALPHA OMICRON PI**  
wishes everyone a  
safe and happy  
summer!

